

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-37 : (Canceled)

Claim 38 : (Currently Amended) A method of enabling marking of gemstones, comprising the steps of:

- a) manufacturing, at a manufacturing site, stencils with cutouts arranged in marking patterns;
- b) filling the cutouts with a fusible material;
- c) sending the stencils from the manufacturing site to marking sites at which marking of the gemstones is to be performed;
- d) applying adhering the stencils on, and in direct contact with, the gemstones to be marked at the marking sites; and
- e) inscribing the gemstones with the marking patterns of the stencils applied adhered to the gemstones at each marking site by heating the fusible material at each marking site to a temperature sufficient to melt the fusible material and form ~~cavities in the gemstones, the cavities in the gemstones constituting~~ the marking patterns.

Claim 39 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the fusible material is one of a metal material, a metal oxide material, a ceramic material, and an alloy of said materials.

Claim 40 : (Canceled)

Claim 41 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, and the step of covering the cutouts filled with the fusible material with a cover layer.

Claim 42 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the cutouts are sequential numbers.

Claim 43 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the cutouts are a logo.